

COVID NEGOTIATIONS

Over the summer the university met with the campus trade unions weekly at our request to discuss the university's responses to the pandemic. As a result we have negotiated:

Mask policy – the policy for mask wearing on campus was made more effective at the insistence of UCU

Workload agreement – the university agreed to guidelines for managers as a result of the additional burdens, please read through if you are finding this year particularly hard

Minimised impact of financial crisis on staff – we sought to minimise the impact on lower paid staff in particular

Weekly meetings – initial planning by the university did not include regular meetings with the campus trade unions. We know that our members are best placed to feed back on plans and so we have pushed for more regular communication with the branch.

Feedback from a member: "Thank you for all of your hard work on behalf of staff at UEA -- it is so very much appreciated. I can't overstate how comforting it is to be a part of the Union in these times."

Health & Safety at UEA UCU

We changed the branch rules at the last general meeting to add a Health & Safety Officer post to the committee to reflect the importance of this aspect of work. Susan Sayce is the Officer, but we rely on members getting in touch and we encourage you to engage with risk assessments and guidance in your work area. Talk to your manager first if you have concerns, but let us know if you'd like advice.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT UNION MEETING

2.00-3.30 Wednesday 11th November via Zoom – link will be sent out nearer the time

Not a member yet?
Here's how to join:
<http://join.ucu.org.uk>

Organise in your area

Your committee works hard to ensure members' concerns and issues are shared with university executive team and senior managers. You can help by keeping in touch with union members in your department.

We rely on contacts/representatives to help share information. You don't need any special knowledge, to find out more, get in touch.

Arrange a Teams catch up with other union members in the department. Others may have advice or be able to help you think through any issues. You can always invite a committee member along if you'd like to get to know more about what they've been doing.

The more active members we have, the stronger we are. Share this newsletter with colleagues and encourage them to get in touch if they are interested.

Workload campaign – key points

It's TIME

... for a break

Take screen breaks, walk around, change position

...to be safe

Ensure you have time within teaching for hand washing. The one way system will take longer to negotiate. Let your manager know if this is having an impact

...to prepare

We're all having to work in a different way, which takes time. Check your contract on the time allocated for teaching preparation and ensure that the demands for preparation are reasonable.

...to learn

Don't forget paid time to undertake the training necessary for you to undertake your role and crucially, the time and opportunity to update and develop those skills.

Virtual Equality Conference

UCU's Equality Groups Conference 2020 will be held online from Thursday 3 - Saturday 5 December.

Delegates must register before the deadline of Monday 16 November.

The conference will hold five separate half-day conferences for black, disabled, LGBT+, migrant and women members, and a plenary session for all equality strands. To attend any of the five equality groups, delegates must self-identify to that particular group.